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UTILITY
PATENT APPLICATION
TRANSMITTAL

Attorney Docket No.

1700.80A

Total Pages

First Named Inventor or Application Identifier

Hargett, Jr., et al.

Express Mail Label No.

EL473031486US

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

ADDRESS TO:

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1. ☒ Fee Transmittal Form
(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☒ Specification [Total Pages 17]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
- Descriptive title of the Invention
 - Cross References to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to Microfiche Appendix
 - Background of the Invention
 - Brief Summary of the Invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
3. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) [Total Sheets 2]
4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 3]
- a. ☐ Newly executed (original or copy)
- b. ☒ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)
[Note Box 5 below]
- ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
Signed statement attached deleting
inventor(s) named in the prior application,
see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5. ☒ Incorporation By Reference (useable if Box 4b is checked)
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a
copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b,
is considered as being part of the disclosure of the
accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by
reference therein.

6. ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
7. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
(if applicable, ad necessary)
- a. ☐ Computer Readable Copy
- b. ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
- c. ☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

8. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
9. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement ☐ Power of Attorney
(when there is an assignee)
10. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
11. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
12. ☒ Preliminary Amendment
13. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
14. ☐ Small Entity ☒ Statement filed in prior application,
Statement(s) Status still proper and desired
15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
(if foreign priority is claimed)
16. ☐ Other: _____

17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

☐ Continuation ☒ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No: 09,260,209

18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

☒ Customer Number or Bar Code Label

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FEE TRANSMITTALNote: Effective October 1, 1997.
Patent fees are subject to annual revision.**TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT** (\$) 345.00**Complete if Known**

Application Number	
Filing Date	Concurrent
First Named Inventor	Hargett, Jr., et al.
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	1700.80A

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check one)

- 1.
- ☒
- The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any over payments to

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Account
Number
Deposit
Account
Name

50-0332

PHILIP SUMMA, P.A.

- ☒
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- 2.
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FEE CALCULATION**1. FILING FEE**

Large Entity Code (\$)	Small Entity Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
101 790 201 395		Utility filing fee	345
106 330 206 165		Design filing fee	
107 540 207 270		Plant filing fee	
108 790 208 395		Reissue filing fee	
114 150 214 75		Provisional filing fee	

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$) 345**2. CLAIMS**

Total Claims	Extra	Fee from	Fee Paid
19	-20 =	0	
2	-3 =	0	
Multiple Dependent Claims		× 1 =	

Large Entity Code (\$)	Small Entity Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
103 22 203 11		Claims in excess of 20	
102 82 202 41		Independent claims in excess of 3	
104 270 204 135		Multiple dependent claim	
109 82 209 41		Reissue independent claims over original patent	
110 22 210 11		Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent	

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$) 0**FEE CALCULATION (continued)****3. ADDITIONAL FEES**Liege E, the Small Amity
Code (\$) Code (\$)**Fee Description****Fee Paid**

105 130 205 65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
127 50 227 25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
139 130 139 130	Non-English specification	
147 2,520 147 2,520	For filing a request for reexamination	
112 920* 112 920^	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
113 1,840' 113 1,840.	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
115 110 215 55	Extension for reply within first month	
116 400 216 200	Extension for reply within second month	
117 950 217 475	Extension for reply within third month	
118 1,510 218 755	Extension for reply within fourth month	
128 2,060 228 1,030	Extension for reply within fifth month	
119 310 219 155	Notice of Appeal	
120 310 220 155	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
121 270 221 135	Request for oral hearing	
138 1,510 138 1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
140 110 240 55	Petition to revive-unavoidable	
141 1,320 241 660	Petition to revive - unintentional	
142 1,320 242 660	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
143 450 243 225	Design issue fee	
144 670 244 335	Plant issue fee	
122 130 122 130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
123 50 123 50	Petitions related to provisional applications	
126 240 126 240	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
581 40 581 40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
146 790 246 395	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))	
149 790 249 395	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))	

Other fee (specify) _____

Other fee (specify) _____

Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$)**SUBMITTED BY**Typed or
Printed Name

PHILIP SUMMA

Signature

Date

9/22/00

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Reg. Number

31,573

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Hargett, Jr., et al.
Serial No.
Filed: Concurrently
For: PRESSURE VESSEL WITH COMPOSITE
SLEEVE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

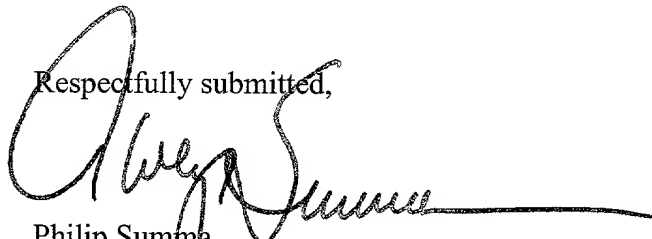
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

The above-identified patent application is a divisional application of pending application Serial No. 09/260,209, filed March 1, 1999.

Before calculating the number of claims in the application and the requisite fees, please cancel Claims 1-16.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip Summa", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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PRESSURE VESSEL WITH COMPOSITE SLEEVE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to microwave assisted chemistry, and in particular relates to a reaction vessel structure that can withstand high pressures without catastrophic failure.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Microwave assisted chemistry refers to the use of microwaves to initiate or accelerate chemical reactions. Microwave assisted chemistry is particularly useful in heating materials that are responsive to microwave radiation because under most circumstances, the resulting heating takes place much more rapidly than it would if the reactions were initiated or accelerated using more conventional heating techniques such as convection or conduction heating.

Microwave assisted chemistry can be used in a variety of chemical processes including moisture determination, ashing, digestion, extraction, and others. Under some circumstances, these various techniques are preferably or necessarily carried out in sealed vessels which, because of the generation or expansion of gases inside, must be able to withstand high pressures.

Accordingly, a number of pressure vessels have been developed that are suitable for high-pressure microwave assisted chemistry. Such vessels are typically formed of microwave transparent materials that offer the structural capabilities required to withstand such high pressures. High-strength polymers are exemplary of such materials and offer the required microwave transparency and resistance to chemical attack. Such materials tend to be brittle, however, so that failure under pressure tends to destroy the vessel quickly and release its contents suddenly.

One recent advance in the construction of such vessels has been to use a composite sleeve as one of the outer portions of the reaction vessel. The composite is formed of several alternating layers of plastic (polymer) and fabric. In such a composite structure, the materials synergistically complement each other by providing characteristics unavailable from the other material, and by providing a structure with characteristics better than either material alone. In the case of sleeves for microwave vessels, the plastic portions of such a vessel offer

chemical resistance and structural strength. The fabric portions offer additional strength as well as flexibility and the ability to change shape without breaking or shattering.

Accordingly, when plastic-fabric composite vessels fail under pressure, they tend to fail rather gently. Stated differently, a fabric vessel, even if it could be constructed to hold gases, would never offer the strength required for high-pressure conditions. Alternatively, engineering resins and other materials can withstand high pressures, but tend to fail by shattering. When used together in a composite structure, however, the combination provides the strength for maintaining a high pressure in the vessel, while preventing shattering should the plastic fail.

Versions of such composite fabric vessels are disclosed, for example, in U.S. Patents Nos. 5,427,741 and 5,520,886, both of which are commonly assigned with the present invention. Another version is set forth in co-pending and commonly assigned application Serial No. 09/062,858, filed April 20, 1998, the contents of which are incorporated entirely herein by reference ("the '858 application").

As composite pressure vessels have become more widely used because of their advantages, certain characteristics have become more evident that can be improved upon. In particular, and taking for example the vessel structure illustrated in the co-pending '858 application, the flexible nature of the woven fabric layers tends to be such that if the vessel is exposed to high pressure, it may distort slightly. The vessel's characteristics are such that it will stay distorted even after the pressure is removed or released. By "distorted," it will be understood that only a very slight change of shape may have taken place, sometimes as little as 0.001 inch. Nevertheless, when dealing with gases, such a change in dimension is enough to prevent the vessel from maintaining an effective seal under high pressure.

Additionally, in the vessel illustrated in the '858 application, the lid for the reaction portion of the vessel is sealed to the top of the vessel using a flat surface-flat surface contact arrangement (e.g., Figures 2 and 4 thereof). As in the case of slight flexing of the composite sleeve, slight deviations from the flat-on-flat contact can allow gases to escape. In some cases such self-venting is desirable and helps keep a reaction at or within desired pressure limits. In other cases, however, unintended venting can release gases (including reagents) and prevent the intended reaction from taking place.

Accordingly, a need exists for pressure vessels that incorporate the advantages of protective composite sleeves, but that improve upon the characteristics of the present vessels and reduce the possibility for distortion or leakage.

OBJECT AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 Therefore, it is an object of the present invention to provide an improved vessel for high-pressure microwave assisted chemistry that takes advantage of the characteristics of composite materials and yet improves upon the existing structures.

The invention meets this object with a protective composite sleeve for a microwave transparent vessel. The sleeve comprises a microwave transparent inner cylindrical
10 polymeric layer, a first microwave transparent wound layer adjacent to and concentric with the inner polymeric layer, and in which the winding is selected from the group consisting of filaments and yarns. A microwave transparent outer polymeric layer completes the basic sleeve structure.

In another aspect, the invention comprises the composite material from which the
15 sleeve is made.

In yet another aspect, the invention comprises a pressure vessel assembly for microwave assisted chemistry that incorporates the composite sleeve.

These and other objects of the invention and the manner in which they are accomplished will be more clearly understood when taken in conjunction with the detailed
20 description and the accompanying drawings in which:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an embodiment of a pressure vessel for microwave assisted chemistry according to the present invention;

Figure 2 is a cross-sectional view of the vessel and its frame taken along lines 2-2 of
25 Figure 1;

Figure 3 is an enlarged exploded partial view of the inner liner and lid portions of the vessel according to the present invention;

Figure 4 is an exploded perspective view of the composite sleeve according to the present invention, the vessel liner, and its lid;

Figure 5 is a partially cut-away perspective view of a composite sleeve according to the present invention; and

Figure 6 is a cross-sectional view taken along lines 6-6 of Figure 5 and illustrating the composite material used to form the sleeve.

5

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present invention is a self-sealing vessel assembly for high-pressure microwave assisted chemistry that is illustrated in perspective view at 10 in Figure 1. The vessel assembly 10 includes a protective composite sleeve 11 that is also illustrated in more detail in Figures 4, 5, and 6. The sleeve surrounds a microwave transparent polymeric reaction cylinder 12 (e.g., Figures 3 and 4) and a circular polymeric cap 13 for the cylinder 12. It will be understood that although the invention herein is described in terms of cylindrical vessels and sleeves, and that such are typically most preferred and convenient for manufacture and use, other shapes such as polygons could be used provided they otherwise offer the structural integrity of a cylinder.

15 The vessel assembly 10 further includes a frame 14 into which the composite sleeve 11, the reaction cylinder 12, and the cap 13 fit along with a structural support disc 15 that is included for strength purposes so that the reaction cylinder 12 can be tailored for chemical inertness rather than strength. The frame 14 includes a threaded opening 16 (Figure 2) that receives a bolt 17 that can be tightened down against the cap 13. In use, the bolt 17 helps
20 secure the cap 13 at lower pressures while the cap itself helps secure the opening with a self-sealing mechanism at higher pressures as will be explained in more detail herein. For higher pressure operation, the cap 13 and bolt 17 are often used in combination with a structural disk (not shown) that adds additional strength to the cap 13, the material for which is typically chosen for chemical resistance.

25 As set forth in the '858 application incorporated above, one purpose of the frame 14 is to maintain the vessel under seal at certain pressures, while allowing the vessel to vent (as the frame flexes) at other (higher) pressures. The design and materials for the frame are accordingly selected for this purpose.

30 As illustrated in Figures 2, 3, and 4, the reaction cylinder 12 is closed at its lower end and open at the other end to receive the cap 13. The open end of the cylinder 12 comprises a

lip 20 that is beveled inwardly from the open end and the cap 13 has a beveled lower edge 21 that engages the beveled lip 20 when the cap 13 is placed on the cylinder 12. In certain embodiments, the cap 13 further comprises a choke cylinder 22 that depends from the beveled lower edge 21. The choke cylinder 22 has an outer diameter substantially the same as the inner diameter of the polymeric cylinder 12 so that the choke 22 provides a self-sealing mechanism for the cylinder 12 as pressure from a microwave assisted chemical reaction increases within the cylinder 12. The use of the bolt 17 against the cap 13 together with the choke cylinder 22 keeps the reaction cylinder 12 sealed at both low and high pressures. The bolt 17 keeps the cap secured at lower pressures, while at higher pressures, the pressure exerted by a gas against the inner walls of the depending choke cylinder 22 urges them against the inner circumference of the reaction vessel 12 in a manner that seals the vessel quite efficiently at the intended pressures.

In other embodiments, and as set forth in the '858 application, the choke cylinder 22 is omitted. In these embodiments, the frame is designed to flex at certain pressures so that the cap 13 will briefly disengage from the vessel 12 at such pressures. In this manner the assembly releases pressure and then immediately re-seals itself as the frame returns to its original orientation against the vessel 12 and cap 13. As noted above, the structural design of the frame can be selected to determine the pressure at which the frame will allow the cap to open.

The reaction cylinder 12 and cap 13, along with all of the other materials in the vessel assembly 10, are formed of a microwave transparent materials, and in preferred embodiments, the reaction cylinder 12 and the cap 13 are formed of polymerized fluorinated hydrocarbons such as polytetrafluoroethylene, which is commonly available under the trade name TEFLON®.

Those familiar with polymers that are microwave transparent, chemically inert, and structurally appropriate will recognize that other polymers meeting these characteristics can be used for the vessel and cap and can be selected without undue experimentation.

Exemplary fluoropolymers and other materials are also described in U.S. Patent No. 5,520,886, at column 5, lines 17-55. The contents of Patent No. 5,520,886 are incorporated entirely herein by reference.

As illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, the supporting frame 14 extends along the length of the reaction cylinder 12 and the composite sleeve 11 and then across the lid 13 as well as across the closed end of the cylinder for preventing the lid 13 from being displaced from the cylinder until the pressure generated inside the vessel reaches the desired release point.

5 The beveled lip 20 of the reaction cylinder and the beveled edge 21 of the cap 13 form a much more efficient seal in vessel systems of this type than do flat surfaces that simply bear against one another in planar fashion. The use of the beveled lip 20 and beveled edge 21 greatly increases the surface contact area between the lid 13 and the reaction cylinder 12 thus providing a more efficient seal under the various stresses that the overall
10 vessel assembly experiences as gas pressure increases within the cylinder 12.

Furthermore, the structural stability provided by the improved composite sleeve makes the beveled choke cap 13 much more effective than it would be otherwise, as well as increasing its durability.

In preferred embodiments, the composite sleeve 11 comprises a microwave
15 transparent inner cylindrical polymeric layer 23, a first microwave transparent wound layer 24 adjacent to and concentric with the inner polymer layer 23 in which the winding (Figure 5) is selected from the group consisting of filaments and yarns, and a microwave transparent outer polymeric layer 25.

It has been discovered, according to the present invention, that incorporating at least
20 one (and possibly several) textile layers in which the filaments or yarns are wound rather than woven, knitted, or nonwoven, maintains the structural integrity of the sleeve 11 for many more cycles of operation than has been the case with composite sleeves in which the fabric layers have been, for example, woven. In particular, it has been discovered if the windings are made under tension, they form a particularly strong structural geometry that
25 remains unaffected even under exposure to high pressure. This appears to result from the windings being directly circumferential to the radial forces inside the reaction vessel 12 and transmitted therethrough to the sleeve 11 as gases exert pressure against the inner cylinder 12. As used herein, the term "textile" includes fiber, filaments, yarns, and fabrics; e.g.,
Hoechst Celanese Dictionary of Fiber & Textile Technology (1990 Hoechst Celanese
30 Corporation) at page 157. Thus, the wound layers of filaments or yarns described herein are

properly referred to as textile layers, as are the layers of woven, nonwoven, knitted, or braided fabric.

In order to obtain the strength advantages generally required under pressure, the composite sleeve 11 preferably further comprises at least one structural polymer layer 26 between the wound layer 24 and the outer polymer layer 25. In preferred embodiments, the structural polymer layer 26 is an engineering resin, with materials such as polyimides being most preferred. By comparison, the inner layer 23 and outer layers 25 are typically selected for chemical inertness and are often formed of polytetrafluoroethylene or some other generally inert polymeric material. Appropriate engineering resins are well known to those of ordinary skill in these arts and can be selected and manufactured without undue experimentation. Exemplary resins are described at column 6, lines 10-40 of Patent No. 5,520,886, or in Lewis, *Hawley's Condensed Chemical Dictionary*, 12th Edition at pages 464-65 ("engineering material").

As Figure 6 illustrates, in the most preferred embodiments, the composite sleeve 11 further comprises a plurality of pairs of adjacent concentric layers of structural polymer and fabric in addition to the wound layer 24 and the outer polymer layer 25. Figure 6 illustrates three additional fabric layers 27, 30, and 31 and two additional layers 32 and 33 of the preferred engineering resin.

It will be understood that the fabric layers 27, 30, and 31 can also be wound in the same manner as the layer 24, or alternatively, because of the strength advantages provided by even one wound layer, the additional fabric layers can comprise the woven, nonwoven, braided, or knitted fabrics previously used in such composite sleeves. Thus, at least one, possibly several, and potentially all of the fabric layers can be wound.

Although the illustrated embodiment shows the wound layer 24 as the innermost textile layer, it will be understood that if a single wound layer is incorporated, it can comprise the innermost textile layer, the outermost textile layer, or any one or more layers in between. Furthermore, textile layers can be positioned directly adjacent one another, including wound layers on wound layers, and (in a particularly preferred embodiment) wound layers on woven (or other fabric) layers.

The windings used to make the layer 24 are selected from the group consisting of filaments and yarns, with TEFLON®-coated fiberglass yarns being presently most preferred. Other yarns or filaments can also be used provided they have the required characteristics of microwave transparency, chemical inertness, and appropriate strength.

5 Accordingly, in another aspect, the invention comprises the protective composite sleeve material itself which comprises the microwave transparent wound fabric layer fixed with the microwave transparent structural medium with the wound layer being selected from the group consisting of filaments and yarns. As in the previous embodiments, the structural medium is preferably a first polymer, preferably an engineering resin such as a polyimide.

10 The inner and outer layers are selected for chemical inertness and preferably comprise polytetrafluoroethylene. The material can include as many pairs of additional structural polymers and additional structural textile layers as may be desired or necessary with a total of four or five textile layers (including the wound layer) being most preferred.

The composite sleeve illustrated in Figures 5 and 6 can be formed in any manner
15 suitable to achieve the final structure, one example of which will be described herein. In a preferred technique, TEFLON® tape is wrapped on a mandrel (preferably one of surface-hardened aluminum) having a diameter the same as the desired inner diameter of the composite sleeve. When properly wound, the TEFLON® tape forms a cylinder over the mandrel.

20 In a next step, the yarn or filament is wound over the TEFLON® tape under tension, and with the filaments or yarns closely adjacent one another. The yarn can be wound in single or multiple passes (*i.e.*, to form wound-on-wound layers) depending upon the desired end structure. The yarn layer is then wound (*i.e.*, covered) with a tape of the desired engineering resin.

25 Next, in presently preferred embodiments, a woven fiberglass fabric is added as a sock over the layer of engineering resin tape on the mandrel. Before being added, the fiberglass sock is heat-treated, typically using a microwave technique, to remove any carbon or other impurities that would be responsive to microwave radiation in the final composite sleeve. As noted above, the successive fabric layers could alternatively be wound rather than
30 woven just like the first fabric layer.

Furthermore, if desired, two or more wound layers can be adjacent one another, or a wound layer can be adjacent a woven (or other fabric) layer without any polymer layer therebetween.

Additional layers of engineering resin tape and fabric or windings are added in the same manner to obtain the desired number of layers of each.

In the next-to-last step, another layer of TEFLON® tape is wound over the outermost layer of fabric. As a final winding step, a heat-shrinkable tape is wound over the outermost coating of the cylinder precursor materials on the mandrel. The mandrel and the wound and sock type layers are then heated to an appropriate temperature (325°C. for about 40 minutes in preferred embodiments) to melt the resins. At the same time the tape shrinks under the influence of heat thus applying a compressive force to the entire structure which gives it additional structural strength.

After the heating step, the mandrels and surrounding materials are allowed to cool after which the sleeves are removed from the mandrel and cut into appropriate lengths for use with the vessels described herein.

As recognized by those who use microwave assisted chemistry on a regular basis, the vessel assemblies described herein are typically, and in many cases preferably, used in systems for microwave assisted chemistry that comprise a source of microwave radiation, a cavity (resonator) in microwave communication with the source, and a plurality of the reaction vessels of the type described herein in the cavity. In many cases, the vessels are placed upon a reciprocating turntable that helps move the vessels slightly through the microwave pattern that becomes established in the cavity. Magnetrons are typically used as sources for such devices because of their availability, reliability, and cost effectiveness. Other sources such as klystrons, solid-state sources, or switching power supplies (converters or inverters) can also be incorporated as is described, for example, in co-pending and commonly assigned patent application Serial No. 09/063,545, filed April 21, 1998, for "Use of Continuously Variable Power in Microwave Assisted Chemistry."

In the drawings and specification, there have been disclosed typical embodiments of the invention, and, although specific terms have been employed, they have been used in a

generic and descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation, the scope of the invention being set forth in the following claims.

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A protective composite sleeve material for a microwave reaction vessel, said sleeve material comprising a microwave-transparent wound layer fixed with a microwave transparent structural medium, said wound layer being selected from the group consisting of filaments and yarns.
2. A composite sleeve material according to Claim 1 wherein said structural medium is a first polymer layer on one surface of said wound layer.
3. A composite sleeve material according to Claim 2 further comprising a chemically-inert inner liner on the opposite surface of said wound layer from said first structural polymer.
4. A composite sleeve material according to Claim 3 and further comprising a chemically inert outer liner on said first structural polymer.
5. A composite sleeve material according to Claim 4 wherein said first structural polymer comprises a polyimide resin.
6. A composite sleeve material according to Claim 5 wherein said inner and outer liners are tetrafluoroethylene polymer.
7. A composite sleeve material according to Claim 4 and further comprising at least one additional textile layer and one additional structural polymer layer between said first structural polymer layer and said inert outer liner.
8. A composite sleeve material according to Claim 7 wherein said additional textile layer is selected from the group consisting of wound filaments, wound yarns, woven fabric, braided fabric, nonwoven fabric, and knitted fabric.

9. A protective composite sleeve for a microwave transparent vessel, said sleeve comprising:

a microwave transparent inner cylindrical polymeric layer;

5 a first microwave transparent wound layer adjacent to and concentric with said inner polymeric layer in which said winding is selected from the group consisting of filaments and yarns; and

a microwave transparent outer polymeric layer.

10. A composite sleeve according to Claim 9 and further comprising a structural polymer layer between said wound layer and said outer polymeric layer.

11. A composite sleeve according to Claim 10 wherein said structural polymer layer comprises an engineering resin.

12. A composite sleeve according to Claim 11 wherein said engineering resin is a polyimide.

13. A composite sleeve according to Claim 10 further comprising a plurality of pairs of adjacent concentric layers of structural polymer and textiles between said inner and outer polymeric layers.

14. A composite sleeve according to Claim 13 wherein said textile layers in said pairs are selected from the group consisting of woven fabrics, braided fabrics, nonwoven fabrics, and knitted fabrics.

15. A composite sleeve according to Claim 13 wherein said textile layers in said pairs comprise a winding selected from the group consisting of filaments and yarns.

16. A composite sleeve according to Claim 9 wherein said inner and outer polymer layers comprise a tetrafluoroethylene polymer.

17. A self sealing vessel assembly for high pressure microwave assisted chemistry, said vessel assembly comprising:

a polymeric reaction cylinder and a circular polymeric cap for said cylinder;
said cylinder being closed at one end and open at the other end to receive said cap;
5 said open end of said cylinder comprising a lip that is beveled inwardly from said open end;

said circular polymeric cap having a beveled lower edge that engages said beveled lip when said cap is placed upon said polymeric cylinder; and

10 a choke cylinder depending from said beveled lower edge of said cap, said choke cylinder having an outer diameter substantially the same as the inner diameter of said polymeric cylinder so that said choke provides a self sealing mechanism for said cylinder as pressure from a chemical reaction increases within said cylinder.

18. A vessel assembly according to Claim 17 wherein said cap and said cylinder both comprise fluorinated hydrocarbons.

19. A vessel assembly according to Claim 17 further comprising a composite sleeve surrounding said polymeric cylinder, said composite sleeve including at least one wound layer in which the winding is selected from the group consisting of filaments and yarns.

20. A vessel assembly according to Claim 17 and further comprising a supporting frame that extends along said cylinder and across said lid and across said closed end of said cylinder for preventing said lid from being displaced from said cylinder when pressure is generated inside of said vessel.

21. A vessel assembly according to Claim 20 wherein said frame comprises an adjustable tightening means that urges said lid against said cylinder.

22. A vessel assembly according to Claim 21 wherein said tightening means comprises:

a threaded opening in said frame; and
a bolt in said threaded opening.

23. A self sealing vessel assembly for high pressure microwave assisted chemistry, said vessel assembly comprising:

a polymeric cylinder and a circular polymeric cap for said cylinder;
said cylinder being closed at one end and open at the other end to receive said cap;
said open end of said cylinder comprising a lip that is beveled inwardly from said

open end;

said circular polymeric cap having a beveled lower edge that engages said beveled lip when said cap is placed upon said polymeric cylinder;

a composite sleeve surrounding said polymeric cylinder, said composite sleeve including at least one wound layer in which the winding is selected from the group consisting of filaments and yarns; and

a supporting frame that extends along said cylinder and across said lid and across said closed end of said cylinder for preventing said lid from being displaced from said cylinder when pressure is generated inside of said vessel.

24. A vessel assembly according to Claim 23 and further comprising a choke cylinder depending from said beveled lower edge of said cap, said choke cylinder having an outer diameter substantially the same as the inner diameter of said polymeric cylinder so that said choke provides a self sealing mechanism for said cylinder as pressure from a chemical reaction increases within said cylinder.

25. A vessel assembly according to Claim 23 wherein said frame comprises:
a threaded opening in said frame adjacent said cap; and

a bolt in said threaded opening that bears on said cap when tightened in said threaded opening.

26. A vessel assembly according to Claim 23 wherein said cap and said cylinder both comprise fluorinated hydrocarbons.

27. A vessel assembly according to Claim 23 wherein said composite sleeve comprises:

a microwave transparent inner cylindrical polymeric layer;

5 a first microwave transparent wound layer adjacent to and concentric with said inner polymeric layer in which said winding is selected from the group consisting of filaments and yarns;

a structural polymer layer between on said wound layer; and

a microwave transparent outer polymeric layer on said structural polymer layer.

28. A composite sleeve according to Claim 27 comprising a plurality of pairs of adjacent concentric layers of structural polymer and textiles between said first wound layer and said outer polymeric layer.

29. A composite sleeve according to Claim 28 wherein said textile layers in said pairs are selected from the group consisting of woven fabrics, braided fabrics, nonwoven fabrics, and knitted fabrics.

30. A composite sleeve according to Claim 28 wherein said textile layers in said pairs comprise a winding selected from the group consisting of filaments and yarns.

31. A composite sleeve according to Claim 27 wherein said inner and outer polymer layers comprise a tetrafluoroethylene polymer.

32. A vessel assembly according to Claim 23 wherein said supporting frame is flexible under a predetermined force exerted by pressure inside said cylinder and against said cap, so that the flexing of said frame at said pressure allows said cap to disengage from said cylinder and release the pressure inside.

33. A system for microwave assisted chemistry comprising:
a source of microwave radiation;
a cavity in microwave communication with said source; and
a plurality of vessels according to Claim 23 in said cavity.

34. A system according to Claim 33 wherein said source is selected from the group consisting of magnetrons, klystrons, solid state devices, and switching power supplies.

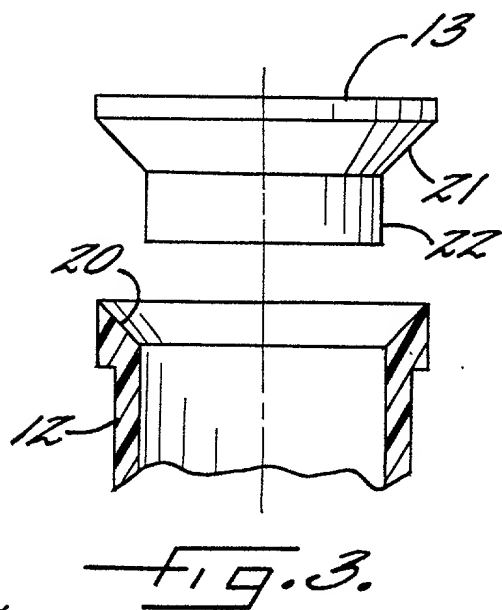
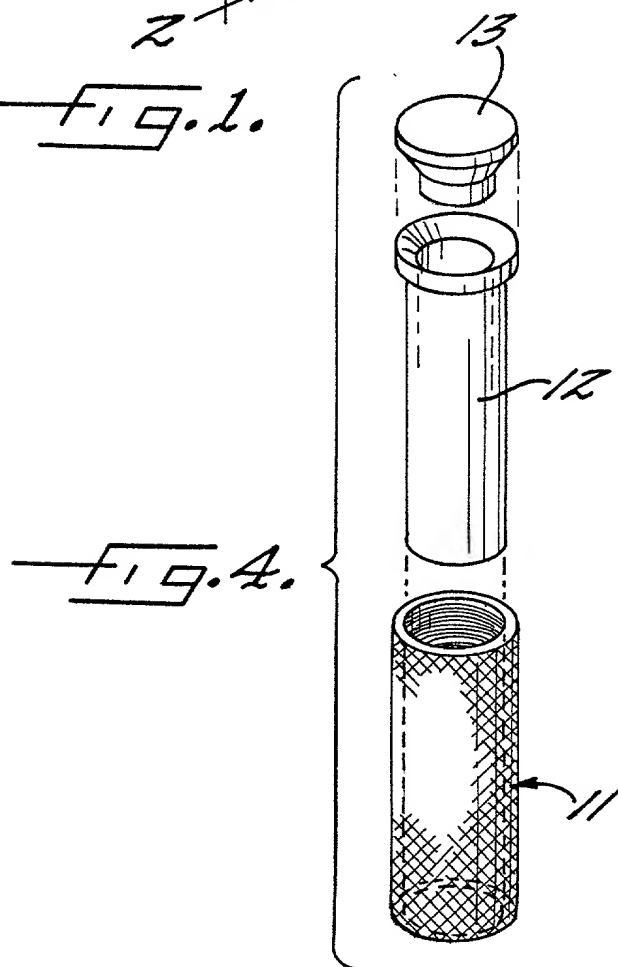
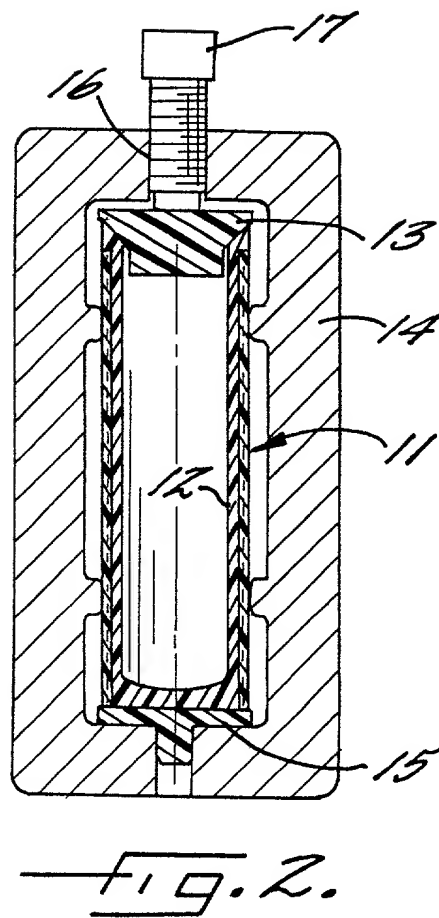
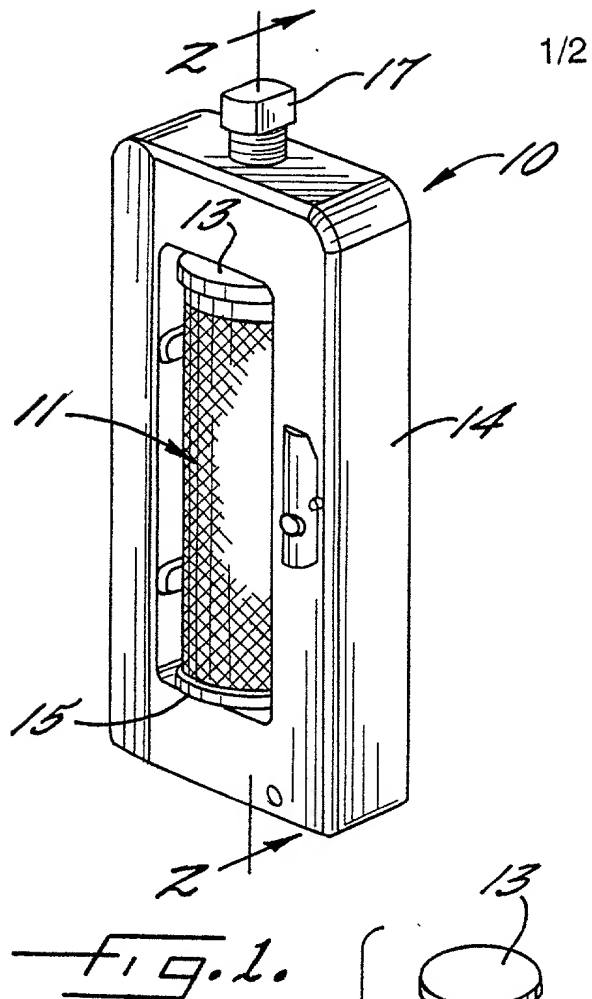
35. A system according to Claim 33 and further comprising a waveguide between said source and said cavity.

PRESSURE VESSEL WITH COMPOSITE SLEEVE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A self sealing vessel assembly for high pressure microwave assisted chemistry is disclosed. The vessel assembly includes a polymeric cylinder and a circular polymeric cap for the cylinder, the cylinder being closed at one end and open at the other end to receive the cap. The open end of the cylinder has a lip that is beveled inwardly from the open end, and the circular polymeric cap has a beveled lower edge that engages the beveled lip when the cap is place upon the polymericcylinder. For high pressure applications, a choke cylinder depends from the beveled lower edge of the cap, and has an outer diameter substantially the same as the inner diameter ofthe polymeric cylinder so that the choke provides a self sealing mechanism for the cylinder as pressure from a chemical reaction increases within the cylinder. A composite sleeve surrounds the polymeric cylinder, and includes at least one wound fabric layer in which the winding is selected from the group consisting of filaments and yarns. A supporting frame extends along the cylinder and across the lid and across the closed end of the cylinder, and prevents the lid from being displaced from the cylinder when pressure is generated inside of the vessel.

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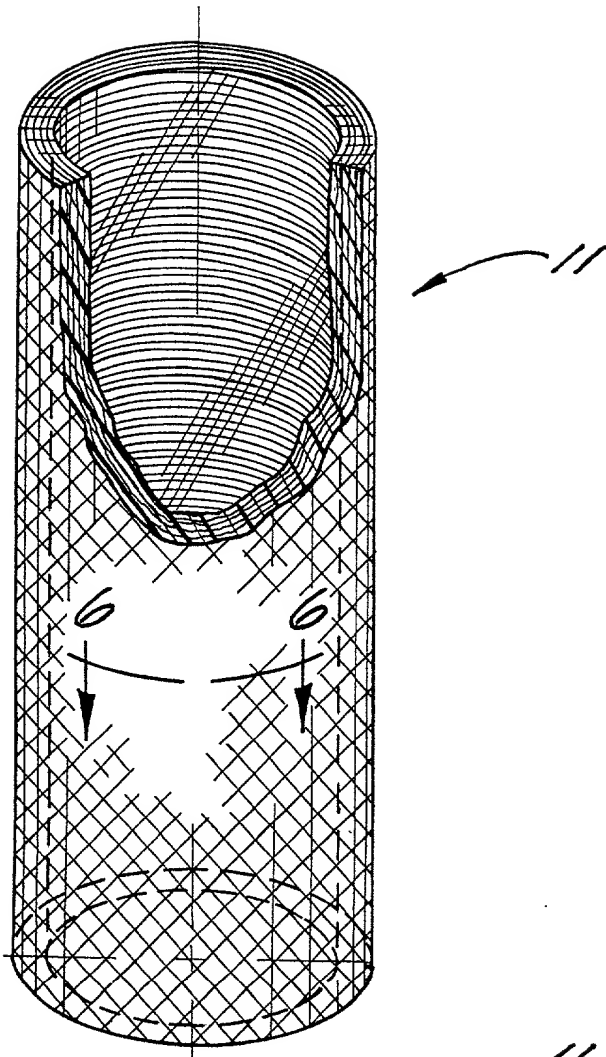


FIG. 5.

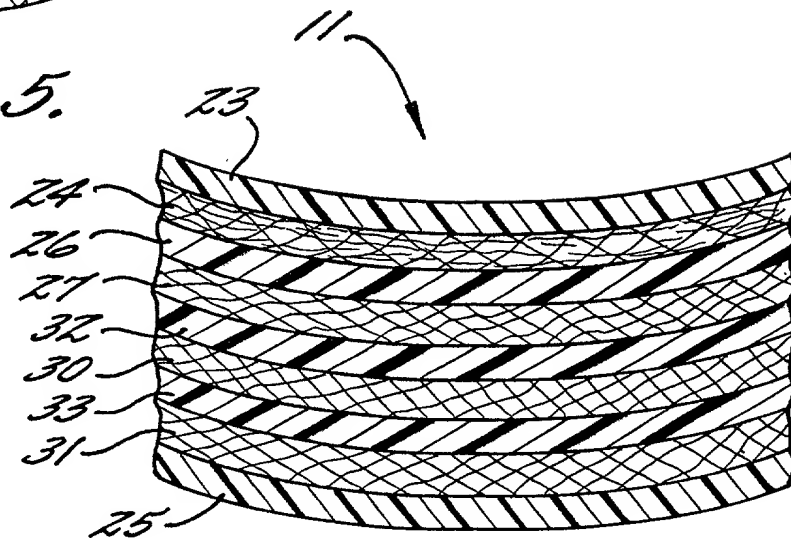


FIG. 6.

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DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION

☐ Declaration
Submitted
with Initial
Filing

OR

☒ Declaration
Submitted after
Initial Filing

Attorney Docket Number	1700.80
First Named Inventor	Hargett et al.
COMPLETE IF KNOWN	
Application Number	09/260,209
Filing Date	03/01/1999
Group Art Unit	1743
Examiner Name	

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled.

PRESSURE VESSEL WITH COMPOSITE SLEEVE

(Title of the Invention)

the specification of which

☐ is attached hereto
OR

☒ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) 03/01/1999 as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number 09/260,209 and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations 1.56

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119 (a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365 (a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?	
				YES	NO
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☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

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Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO /SB/02B attached hereto.

[Page 1 of 2]

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U.S. Parent Application Number	PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)

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☐ Customer Number 021176
OR
☒ Registered practitioner(s) name/registration number listed below

Place Customer Number Bar Code Label here

Name	Registration Number	Name	Registration Number
Philip Summa	31,573		
Richard L. Additon	43,460		
Stanley B. Baker	35,058		

☐ Additional registered practitioner(s) named on supplemental Registered Practitioner Information sheet PTO/SB/02C attached hereto.

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Name of Sole or First Inventor: ☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname	
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City	Matthews	State	NC
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		Country	US

☒ Additional inventors are being named on the 1 supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto

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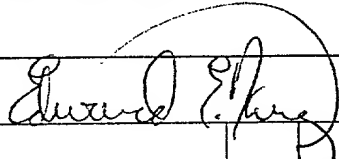
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ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S) Supplemental Sheet Page 1 of 1

Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:				<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor			
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				Country		US	
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Post Office Address							
City		Charlotte		State		NC	
				ZIP		28277	
				Country		US	
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:				<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor			
Given Name (first and middle [if any])				Family Name or Surname			
Inventor's Signature				Date			
Residence: City				State			
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Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:				<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor			
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